

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Analysis of statistics 2022

January 2023

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Overview of the Court's statistics in 2022

The Court's statistics for 2022 disclose an increase in the number of incoming applications allocated to a judicial formation. This can be explained principally by an increase in the number of allocated applications coming from Türkiye, Serbia, Greece and Belgium.

A. New applications

In 2022, 45,500 applications were allocated to a judicial formation, an overall increase of 3% compared with 2021 (44,250). 26,700 of these were identified as single-judge cases likely to be declared inadmissible (a decrease of 1% in relation to 2021). As in previous years, single-judge applications continue to be processed as soon as they are identified as qualifying for such a procedure. In addition, 18,800 applications were identified as probable Chamber or Committee cases (an increase of 10% compared with 2021).

B. Applications disposed of judicially and pending applications

39,570 applications were disposed of judicially, an increase of 10% in relation to 2021 (36,093). The number of applications allocated exceeded the number disposed of by slightly more than 5,930. As a result, the stock of allocated applications pending before the Court increased over the year, from 70,150 to 74,650.

C. Processing of applications

1. Pre-allocation

As at 31 December 2022, the number of applications pending at the pre-judicial stage stood at 6,250, a decrease of 28% as compared with the same date of the previous year (8,700). The number of applications disposed of administratively in 2022 was 14,400, a decrease of 12%¹. 62% of these files were disposed of for failure to comply with the requirements of Rule 47 of the Rules of Court (contents of an individual application).

2. Inadmissibility or striking-out decisions

In 2022, 35,402 applications were declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases by a single judge, a Committee, a Chamber or a Grand Chamber, a 7% increase compared with 2021 (32,962).

The single-judge formation decided 30,585 applications in 2022, 9% more than in 2021 (27,967). The percentage of applications allocated to a single judge this year is the lowest since 2010 (59% of the total number of applications allocated).

In 2022, 2,208 applications were struck out by a Chamber or a Committee, in a decision following a friendly settlement or a unilateral declaration, a decrease of 16% (2,644 in 2021). Friendly settlements (1,718) decreased by 21% (2,174 in 2021) while unilateral declarations increased by 4% (490 as against 470 in 2021). In addition, 2,609 applications were declared inadmissible by a Grand Chamber, a Chamber or a Committee or struck out by those formations on other grounds (11% more than in 2021).

3. Communicated applications

In 2022, 6,822 applications were communicated (a decrease of 36% compared with 2021, when 10,629 applications were communicated).

1. For 2021, these figures do not include the 18,000 files against France referred to in *Zambrano v. France* (dec.), no. 41994/21, 21 September 2021.

4. Judgments

Judgments were delivered in respect of 4,168 applications (compared with 3,131 in 2021, an increase of 33%). A large proportion of these applications were joined, with the result that the number of judgments actually delivered was 1,163, an increase of 5%. Furthermore, 796 judgments (in respect of 3,554 applications) were adopted by a three-judge Committee formation (+18% compared with 2021). There was a 70% increase (3,554 compared with 2,094 in 2021) in the number of applications decided in a judgment by three-judge Committees, which accounted for 85% of applications decided by means of a judgment (compared with 67% in 2021). While in 2021 a large group of applications against Türkiye concerning the lustration of judges were decided by means of a Chamber judgment, in 2022 a similar size group of applications concerning the same subject were decided by means of a Committee judgment. This year the number of applications decided by means of a judgment reached a record figure if the 2017 *Burmych and Others* judgment is not taken into account (*Burmych and Others v. Ukraine* (striking out) [GC], nos. 46852/13 and 12,147 others, 12 October 2017).

5. Requests for interim measures (Rule 39 of the Rules of Court)

The total number of decisions on interim measures (3,106) increased by 61% compared with 2021 (1,925). The Court granted requests for interim measures in 1,094 cases (an increase of 372% in relation to the total of 232 in 2021) and dismissed them in 686 cases (an increase of 32% compared with 519 in 2021). 68% of the requests granted (748 requests) concerned immigration issues in Belgium. It should be noted that 82% of the requests granted concerned issues other than expulsion or extradition. The remainder fell outside the scope of Rule 39 of the Rules of Court.

D. Priority policy²

The essence of this policy is to concentrate more resources on the most important cases, namely the cases falling within the top three categories (“priority applications”). On 31 December 2022, 23,850 applications were pending in these categories (a decrease of 0.6% from the beginning of the year). This result was achieved despite the high numbers of incoming priority applications against Greece, Belgium, Russia and Romania. The Court managed to decrease the number of pending priority applications as a result of the high productivity in these categories in 2022. Indeed, 4,152 priority applications were disposed of judicially, an increase of 23% compared to 2021 (3,373).

The number of priority applications communicated to the respondent Governments decreased by 50% compared to 2021 (6,266 in 2021 and 3,138 in 2022). The number of priority applications declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases by a Grand Chamber, Chamber or Committee decreased slightly by 3% (1,549 in 2021 and 1,509 in 2022). The number of priority applications struck out following a friendly settlement or a unilateral declaration increased from 494 in 2021 to 666 in 2022. The number of priority applications giving rise to a judgment increased by 45% in 2022 (1,824 in 2021 and 2,643 in 2022).

E. Conclusion

The Court has implemented the strategy adopted in 2020 for more targeted and effective case-processing with the aim of streamlining the handling of both priority and “impact” cases (i.e. non-priority Chamber cases which address core issues of relevance for the State in question and/or for the Convention system generally). This strategy is aimed at enhancing the Court’s immediate impact and relevance for the applicants and in the member States and its ability to address core legal issues of relevance for the Convention system as a whole. As at 1 January 2023, 429 applications were identified as having an “impact” among the 26,527 applications pending in category IV. Since January 2021, 551 “impact” applications have been processed: 187 applications resulted in a judgment (111 in 2022 and 76 in 2021), 41 were declared inadmissible or struck out of the list of cases (21 in 2022 and 20 in 2021) and 323 were communicated (87 in 2022 and 236 in 2021).

2. An explanation of the Court’s priority policy can be found on the Court’s internet site: http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Priority_policy_ENG.pdf

General information

Table 1 General statistical information

1. Applications allocated to a judicial formation	2022	2021	+/-
[round figures (50)]			
Applications allocated	45500	44250	3%

2. Interim procedural events	2022	2021	+/-
Applications communicated to respondent Government	6822	10629	-36%

3. Applications decided	2022	2021	+/-
By decision or judgment	39570	36093	10%
- by judgment delivered	4168	3131	33%
- by decision (inadmissible or struck out)	35402	32962	7%

4. Pending applications [round figures (50)]	31/12/2022	1/1/2022	+/-
Applications pending before a judicial formation	74650	70150	6%
- Chamber and Grand Chamber	35100	30600	15%
- Committee	34800	31850	9%
- Single-Judge formation	4750	7700	-38%

5. Pre-judicial applications [round figures (50)]	31/12/2022	1/1/2022	+/-
Applications at a pre-judicial stage	6250	8700	-28%
	2022	2021	+/-
Applications disposed of administratively	14400	16400	-12%

Number of applications allocated to a judicial formation³

Chart 1 Applications allocated to a judicial formation per year

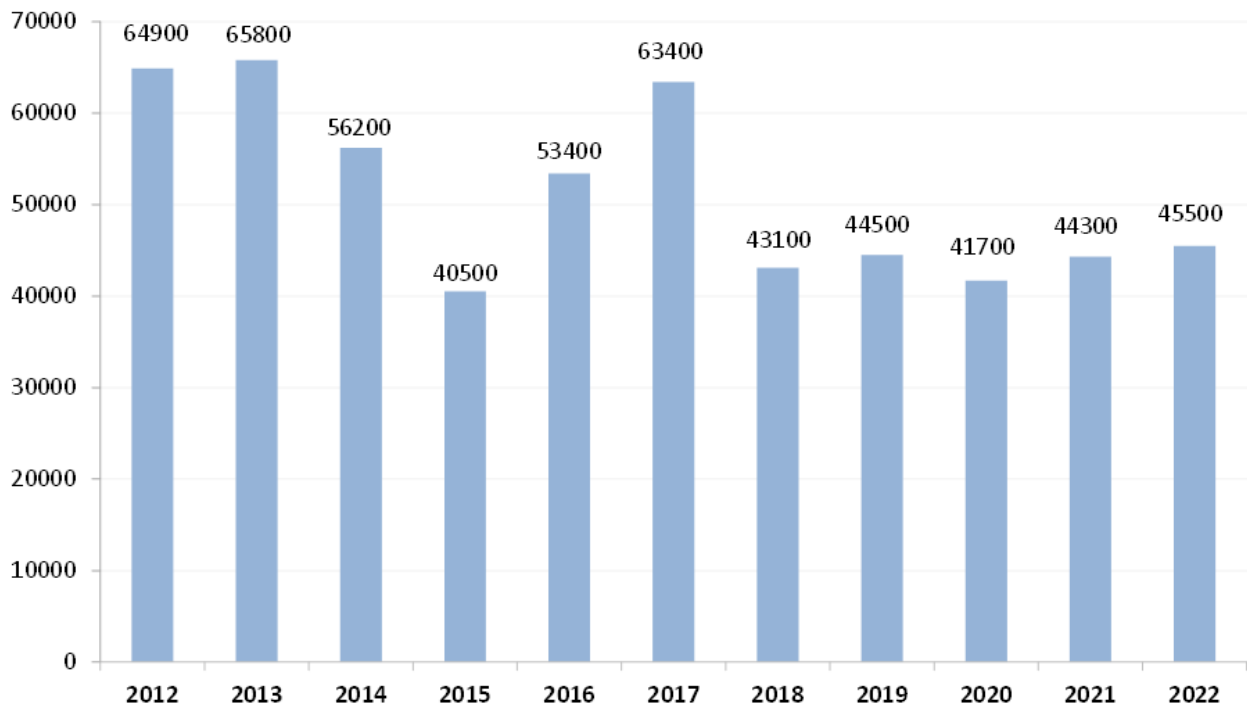
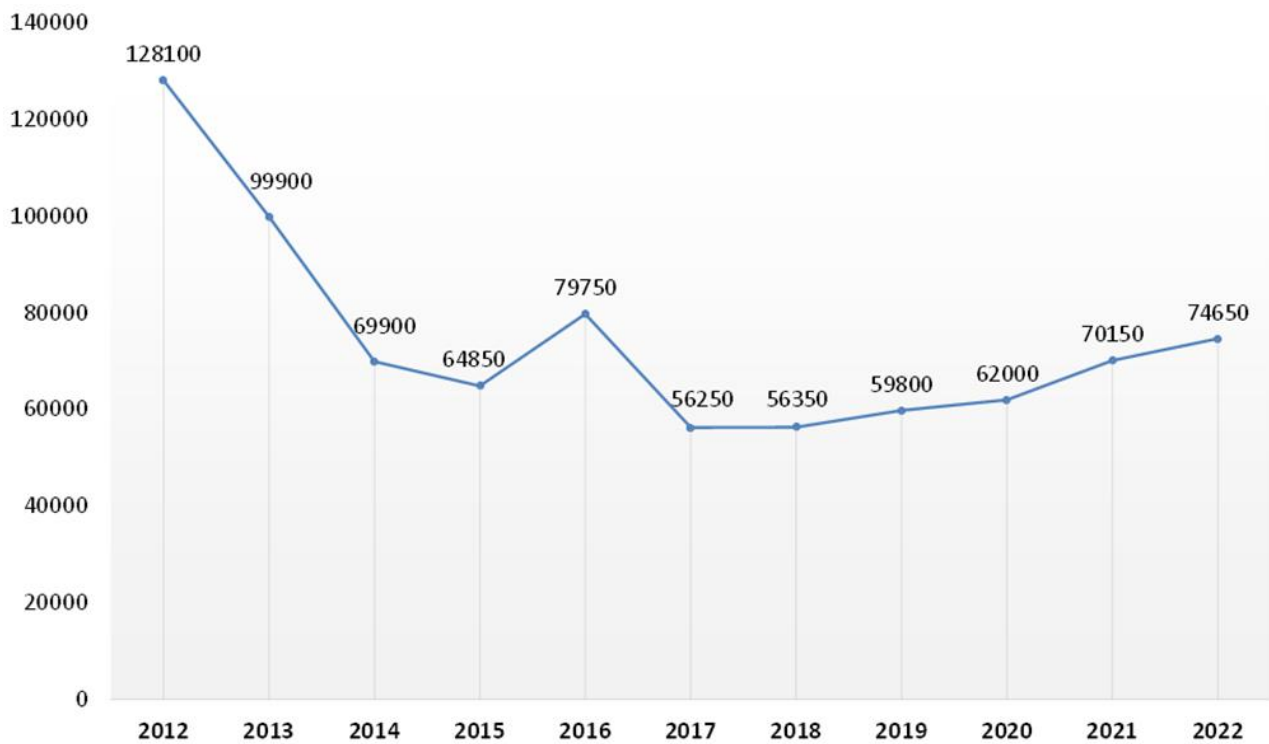


Chart 2 Applications pending before a judicial formation per year



3. Figures represent the total number of applications, including joined applications. The document generally gives round figures.

Chart 3 Breakdown of 74,650 pending applications for the high case-count States

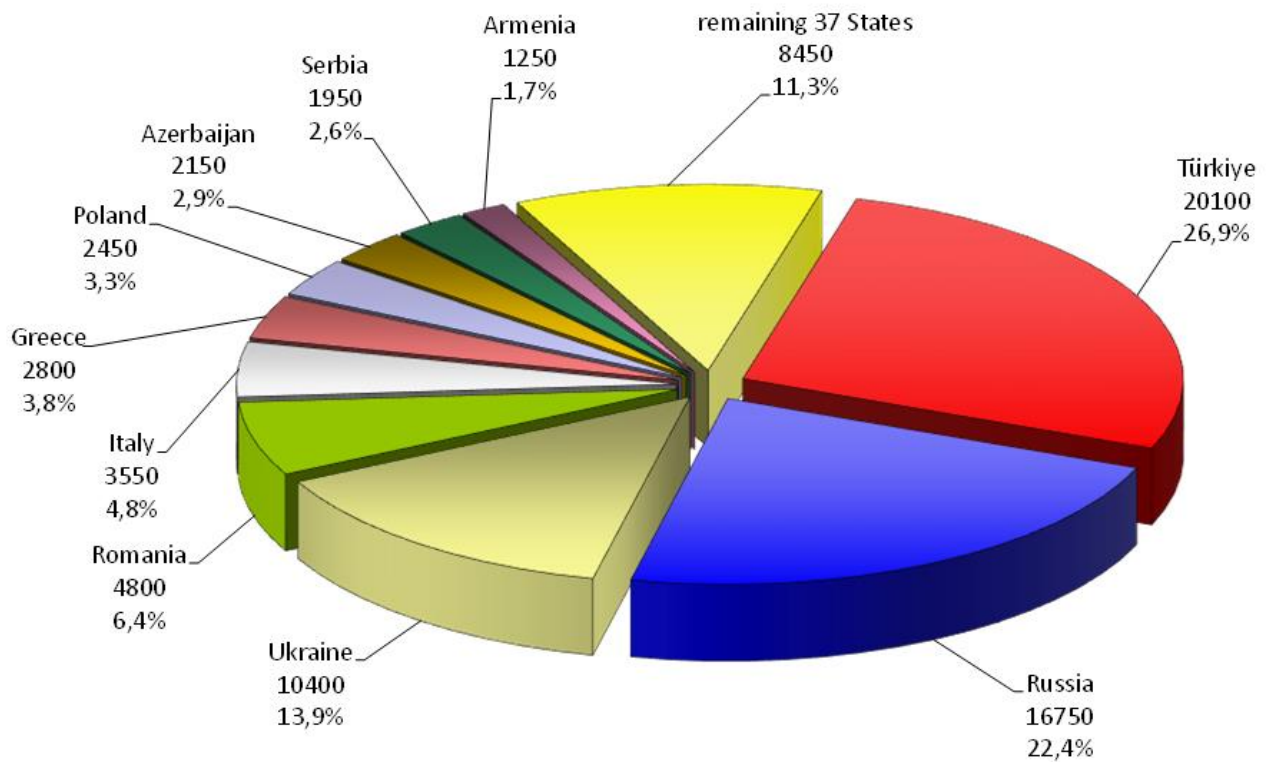
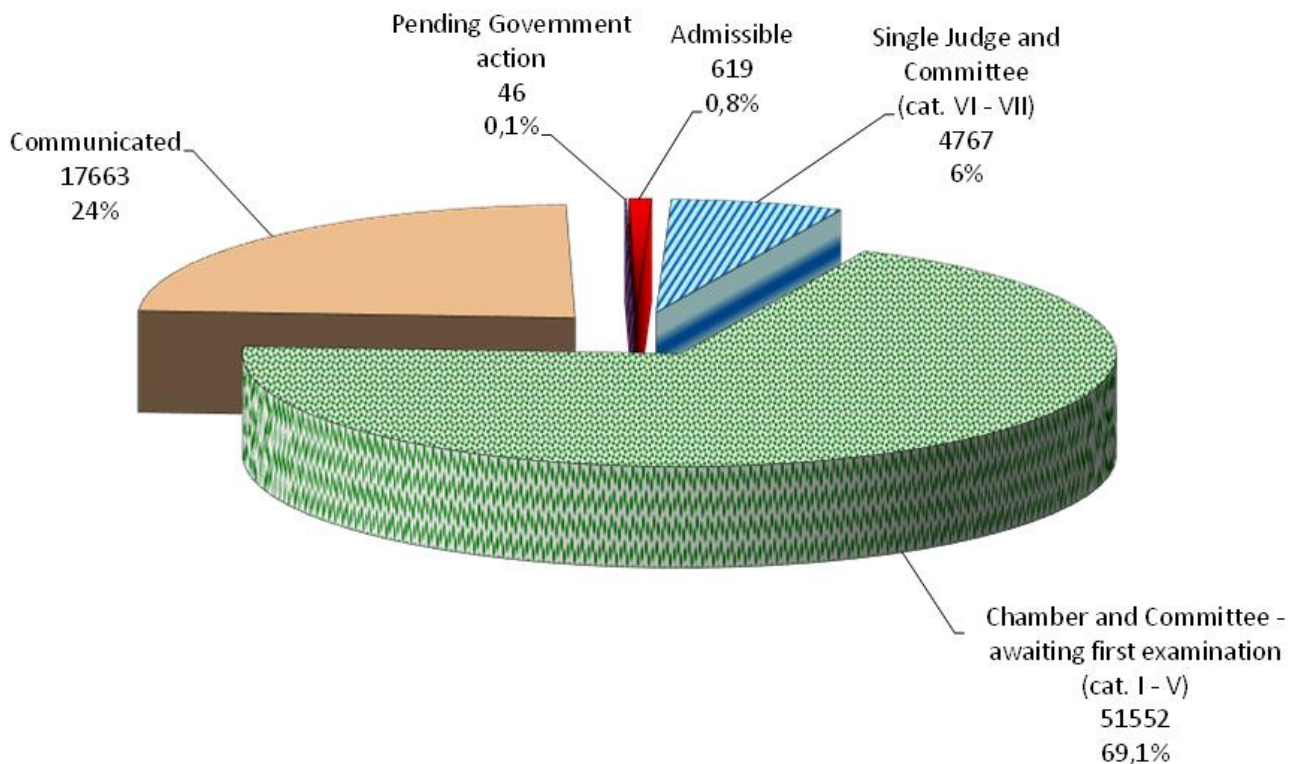
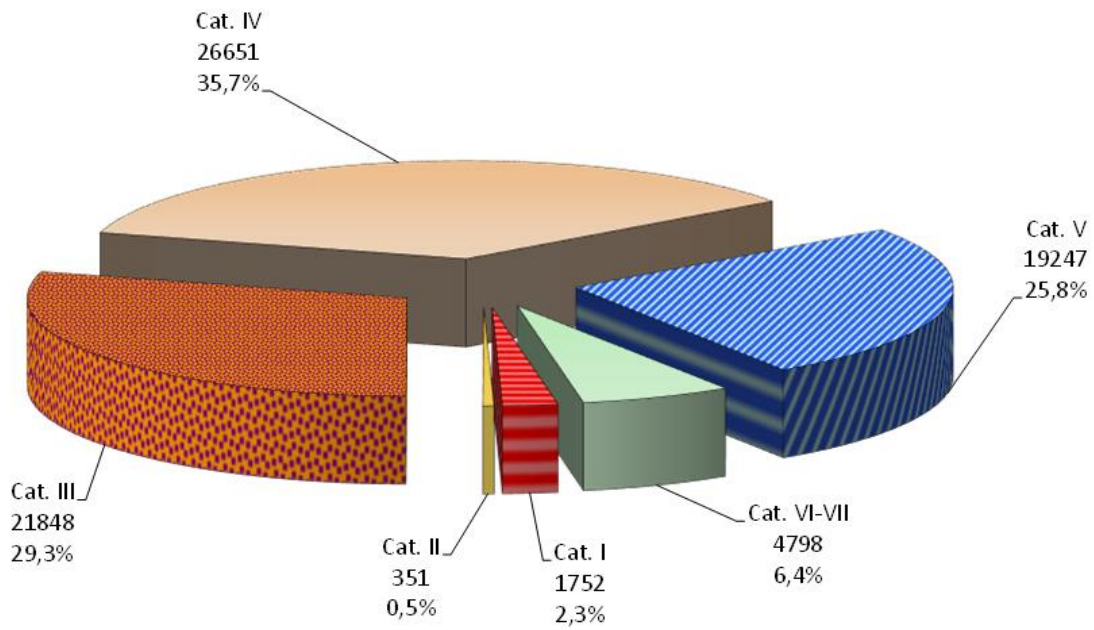


Chart 4 Breakdown of 74,650 pending applications by stage of proceedings and judicial formation⁴



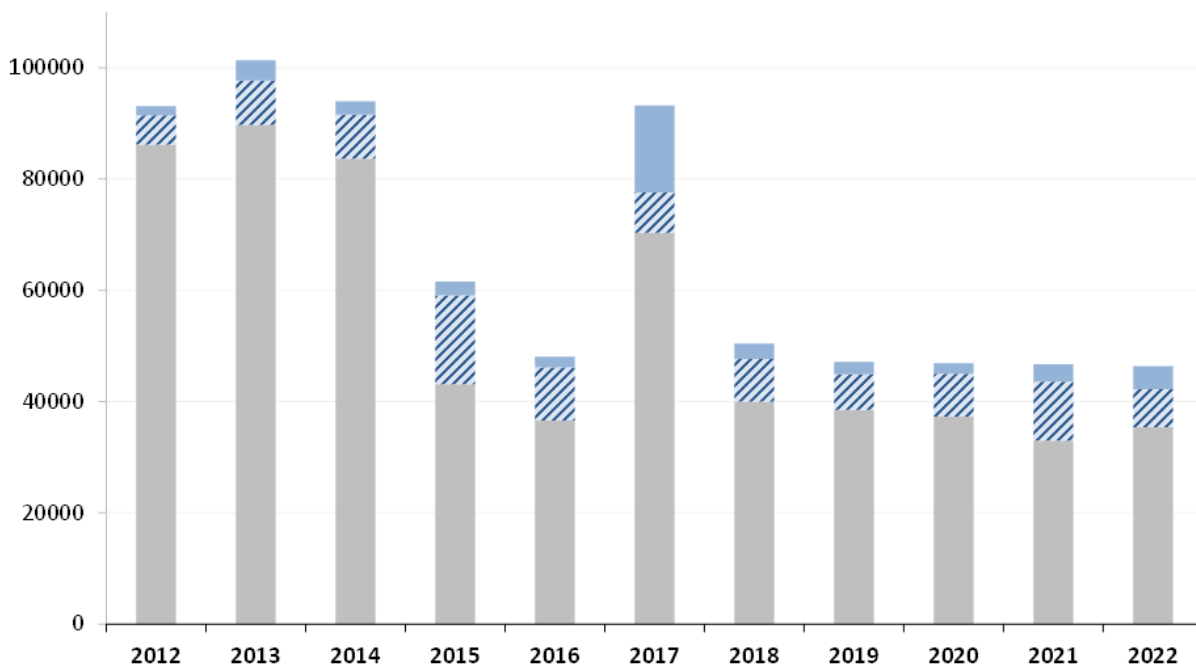
4. The “Pending Government action” category was created to monitor applications following a judgment applying the pilot procedure.

Chart 5 Breakdown of 74,650 pending applications by category



Processing of applications

Chart 6 Major procedural steps in processing of applications



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Applications judgment delivered	1678	3661	2388	2441	1927	15595	2739	2187	1901	3131	4168
Applications communicated	5236	7931	7895	15964	9533	7225	7646	6443	7683	10629	6822
Applications inadmissible or struck out	86201	89739	83680	43133	36579	70356	40022	38480	37289	32962	35402

Chart 7 Number of judgments since 2012

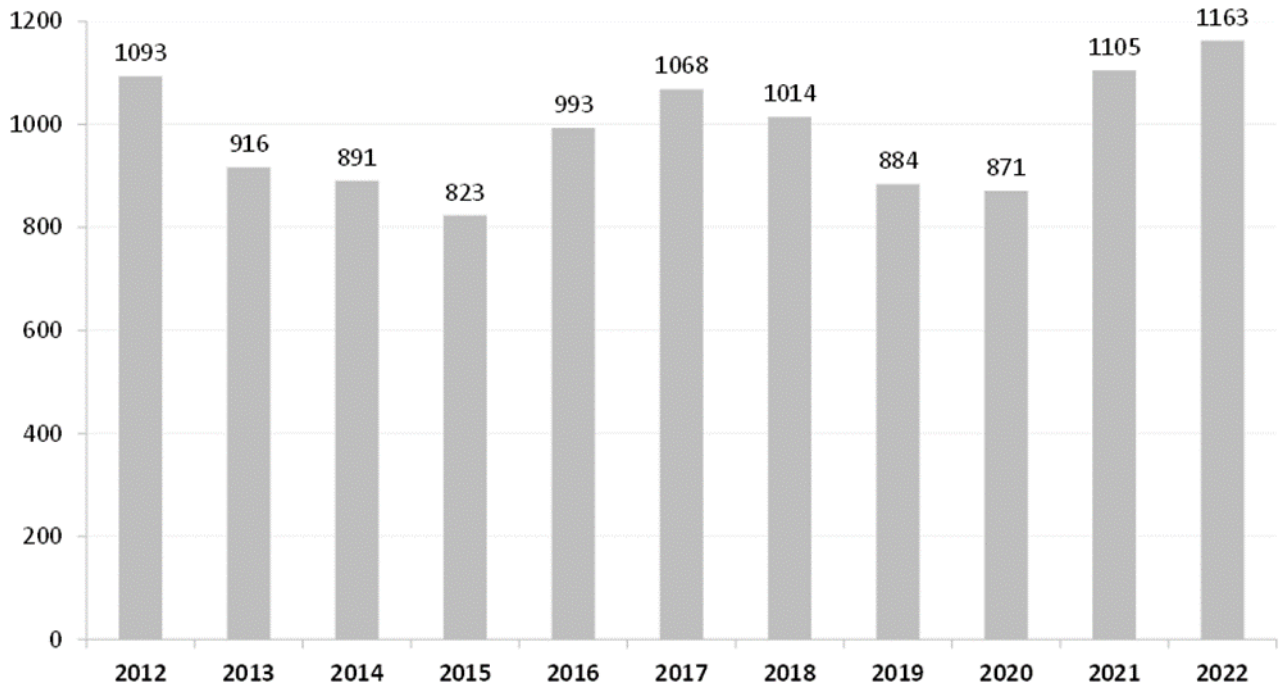


Chart 8 Applications in categories I, II and III processed from 2019 to 2022

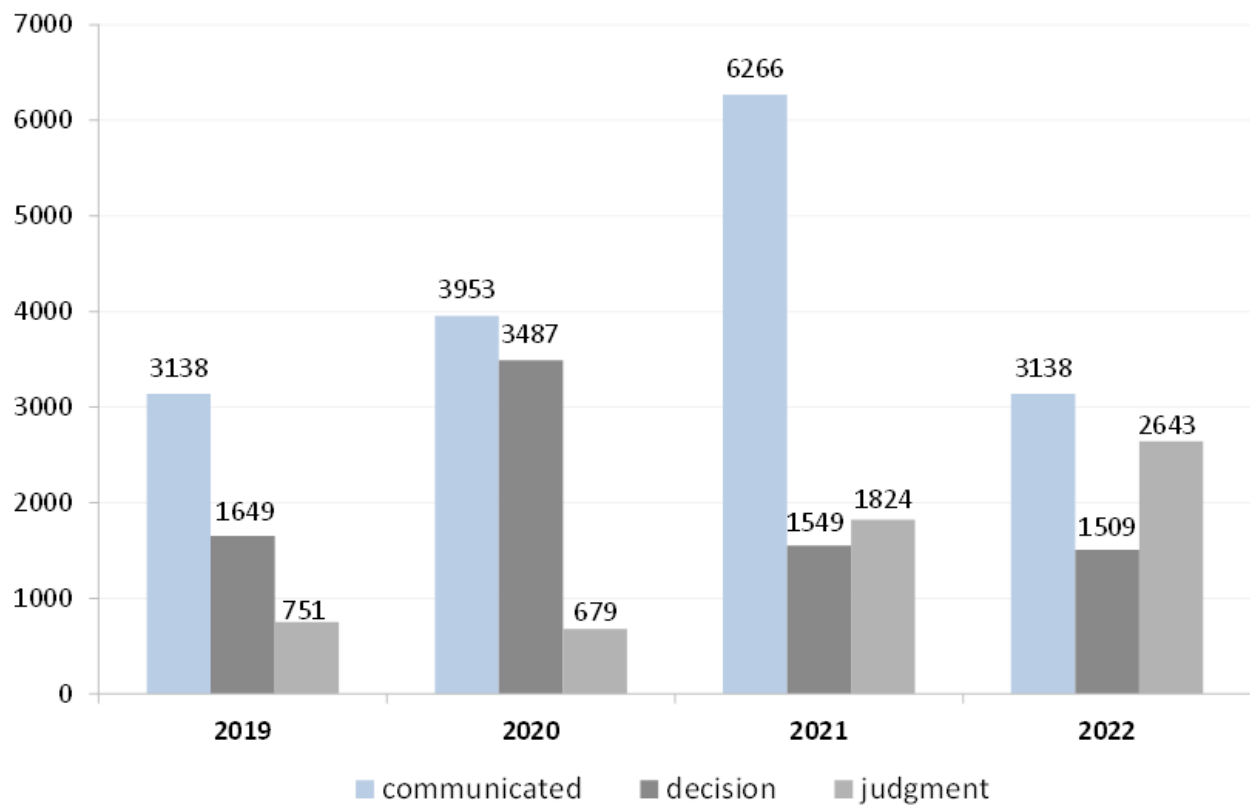


Chart 9 39,570 applications disposed of judicially in 2022

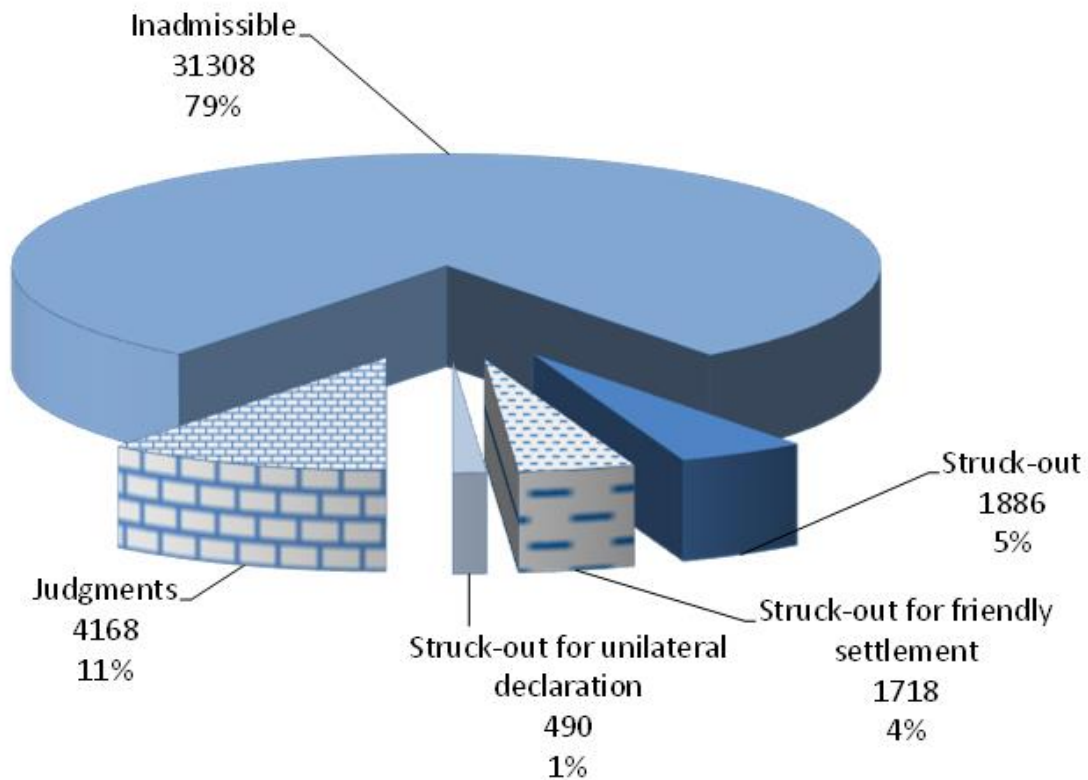


Chart 10 Evolution of the friendly settlements and unilateral declarations since 2012

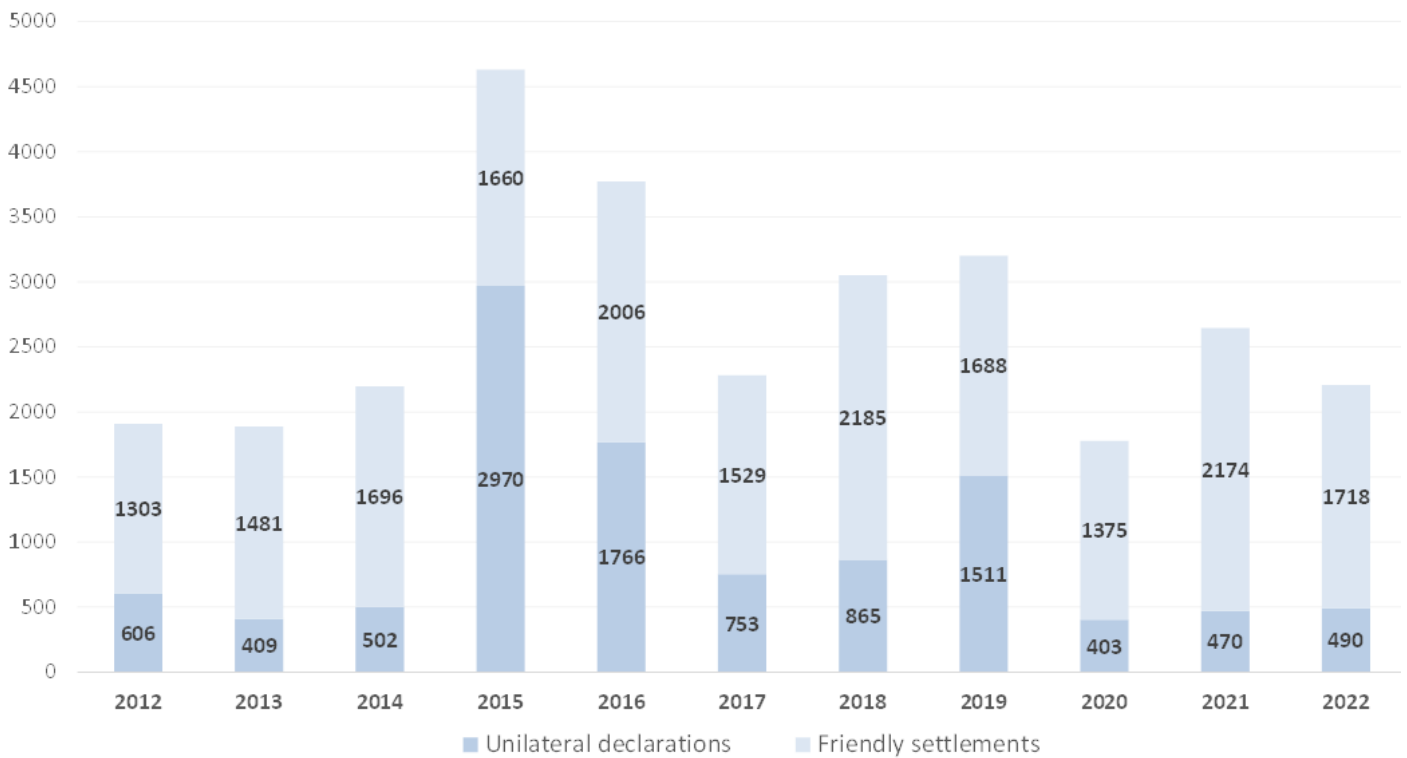


Table 2 Unilateral declarations and friendly settlements from 2020 to 2022

State	Unilateral Declaration			Friendly Settlement		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Albania		2	3		6	2
Andorra						
Armenia	11	1		13	1	1
Austria				2	6	
Azerbaijan	27	55	4	23	67	64
Belgium	2	11	21	8	6	22
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	1	4	6	48
Bulgaria		6	2	1	30	33
Croatia	2	17	12	14	34	20
Cyprus	1		1	2	1	1
Czech Republic	1		1	2	4	4
Denmark					1	
Estonia	3			8	2	1
Finland						
France	3	2	4	3	10	6
Georgia				1		
Germany	1			1	1	2
Greece	8	1	4	53	40	7
Hungary	11	8	13	263	221	170
Iceland		5	16	6	7	2
Ireland		2			3	
Italy	1	142	179	15	236	85
Latvia	1					
Liechtenstein						
Lithuania				1	1	9
Luxembourg						
Malta	1				1	
Republic of Moldova	6	7	1	13	8	3
Monaco					1	
Montenegro				1	1	4
Netherlands			2		4	4
North Macedonia		9	6	22	74	19
Norway						
Poland	23	56	33	17	131	77
Portugal	4	4	2	16	11	14
Romania	24	48	41	69	224	406
Russia	214	42	23	509	244	27
San Marino				1	2	
Serbia	1	1	10	113	708	625
Slovakia	1	6	2	12	26	23
Slovenia						13
Spain						
Sweden						
Switzerland		1			1	7
Türkiye	56	30	109	167	43	10
Ukraine		13		14	7	
United Kingdom				1	5	9
Total	403	470	490	1375	2174	1718

Table 3 The Court’s total caseload by stage of proceedings and judicial formation

State	Single Judge and Committee (cat. VI-VII)	Chamber and Committee - awaiting first examination (cat. I-V)	Communicated	Pending Government action	Admissible	TOTAL
Albania	8	255	119		4	386
Andorra	4		1			5
Armenia	43	1002	179		8	1232
Austria	60	22	11		8	101
Azerbaijan	11	1513	619		27	2170
Belgium	41	988	193		6	1228
Bosnia and Herzegovina	163	11	9		1	184
Bulgaria	67	371	89		12	539
Croatia	83	224	164		4	475
Cyprus	5	23	19		4	51
Czech Republic	24	64	46		8	142
Denmark	9	4	23		3	39
Estonia	5	7	20		4	36
Finland	25	1	10			36
France	232	126	242		14	614
Georgia	9	62	73		11	155
Germany	105	50	39		4	198
Greece	112	1279	1408		4	2803
Hungary	119	203	277		23	622
Iceland	4	2	24		2	32
Ireland	2	3	5			10
Italy	89	2417	1003		22	3531
Latvia	35	299	66		2	402
Liechtenstein						0
Lithuania	137	45	53		5	240
Luxembourg	6	3	4		1	14
Malta	1	15	27		2	45
Republic of Moldova	29	682	301		8	1020
Monaco	2	6	5			13
Montenegro	83	2	16			101
Netherlands	16	24	52		3	95
North Macedonia	78	210	109		2	399
Norway	10	37	25		1	73
Poland	161	1662	621		9	2453
Portugal	31	259	86		1	377
Romania	273	2949	1389	46	136	4793
Russia	173	12997	3390		182	16742
San Marino	1	50	14		4	69
Serbia	784	681	475		1	1941
Slovakia	26	114	66		4	210
Slovenia	55	59	21		2	137
Spain	42	25	37		10	114
Sweden	16	4	13		1	34
Switzerland	65	41	60		3	169
Türkiye	1324	13668	5072		51	20115
Ukraine	183	9060	1140		20	10403
United Kingdom	16	33	48		2	99
ALL STATES	4767	51552	17663	46	619	74647

Table 4 Major procedural steps in processing of applications by State in 2020-2022

State	Applications allocated to a judicial formation			Applications communicated to the Government			Applications declared inadmissible or struck out			Applications decided by a judgment		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Albania	76	75	85	5	38	12	120	220	107	3	4	9
Andorra	11	11	10	0	2	0	10	9	8	1	0	0
Armenia	213	134	111	38	36	48	428	194	177	15	17	31
Austria	215	222	254	11	19	4	199	190	258	0	8	4
Azerbaijan	525	425	389	159	116	237	360	298	269	74	79	51
Belgium	124	155	1169	27	65	147	133	151	166	15	28	13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	870	784	407	99	99	27	2040	529	808	19	60	15
Bulgaria	608	623	597	62	74	70	569	526	568	46	60	28
Croatia	615	698	886	55	111	70	673	637	809	38	45	37
Cyprus	55	52	48	8	15	9	39	47	58	2	3	7
Czech Republic	381	331	309	12	14	19	348	332	311	1	6	10
Denmark	68	67	97	1	6	22	58	47	100	1	8	4
Estonia	128	113	141	8	12	11	132	105	145	2	2	6
Finland	120	91	170	5	3	2	103	109	150	1	1	0
France	638	764	831	86	165	94	478	684	852	60	23	30
Georgia	130	120	150	7	23	21	182	110	508	18	17	15
Germany	569	574	535	11	10	13	559	584	501	11	3	8
Greece	658	912	1947	182	330	921	321	521	519	30	15	22
Hungary	1036	1086	1267	325	458	323	970	894	1070	53	89	202
Iceland	28	21	30	34	17	6	27	33	46	4	2	4
Ireland	42	35	28	8	4	2	40	48	27	1	1	1
Italy	1497	1610	1931	452	365	784	1080	1352	1950	22	54	39
Latvia	414	268	272	21	23	17	230	266	251	10	3	8
Liechtenstein	9	8	1	0	0	0	8	8	2	0	1	0
Lithuania	398	429	360	27	27	34	342	396	307	18	10	23
Luxembourg	29	30	35	2	1	3	15	30	37	0	5	1
Malta	40	62	19	20	26	16	17	21	38	11	17	15
Republic of Moldova	523	630	642	42	76	150	451	553	601	58	80	35
Monaco	3	8	8	0	5	1	2	9	4	1	0	0
Montenegro	218	381	295	2	4	18	266	189	414	14	6	3
Netherlands	386	248	198	19	22	26	380	282	250	5	7	1
North Macedonia	275	394	367	139	41	24	277	362	302	23	6	12
Norway	99	116	131	7	6	3	92	92	120	4	10	5
Poland	1628	2889	2146	124	328	379	1698	1768	1881	23	28	34
Portugal	261	260	335	30	45	69	148	283	238	7	5	11
Romania	2994	2971	3302	1171	1020	1058	2960	4366	3720	348	487	507
Russia	8923	9432	6077	2507	1069	297	9594	5261	4424	570	741	1759
San Marino	6	18	56	1	7	13	4	12	3	1	0	4
Serbia	1836	1993	3289	466	1025	738	1413	1933	3093	8	29	31
Slovakia	289	460	479	70	52	48	268	366	464	13	27	26
Slovenia	180	234	287	5	9	30	174	172	271	4	7	4
Spain	440	614	718	25	10	17	468	587	730	15	13	13
Sweden	174	157	162	9	10	2	183	158	167	0	1	3
Switzerland	278	273	257	24	21	15	279	242	227	15	7	8
Türkiye	9104	9548	12551	761	4155	652	6397	5654	6493	123	567	752
Ukraine	4271	3721	1914	596	677	353	2479	2126	1703	214	539	372
United Kingdom	301	210	240	20	28	17	280	206	255	4	10	5
Total	41681	44257	45528	7683	10629	6822	37289	32962	35402	1901	3131	4168

Country charts are available at <https://echr.coe.int/dashboards>.

Table 5 Applications allocated per Contracting State and population

State	Applications allocated to a judicial formation				Population (1 000)				Allocated/population (10 000)			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	1.1.2019	1.1.2020	1.1.2021	1.1.2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Albania	88	76	75	85	2862	2846	2830	2794	0,31	0,27	0,27	0,30
Andorra	6	11	11	10	76	77	77	80	0,79	1,43	1,43	1,25
Armenia	148	213	134	111	2965	2960	2963	2961	0,50	0,72	0,45	0,37
Austria	199	215	222	254	8859	8901	8933	8979	0,22	0,24	0,25	0,28
Azerbaijan	397	525	425	389	9981	10067	10119	10156	0,40	0,52	0,42	0,38
Belgium	139	124	155	1169	11455	11522	11555	11631	0,12	0,11	0,13	1,01
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1784	870	784	407	3492	3492	3287	3231	5,11	2,49	2,39	1,26
Bulgaria	750	608	623	597	7000	6951	6917	6839	1,07	0,87	0,90	0,87
Croatia	712	615	698	886	4076	4058	4036	3879	1,75	1,52	1,73	2,28
Cyprus	45	55	52	43	876	888	896	905	0,51	0,62	0,58	0,48
Czech Republic	300	381	331	309	10650	10694	10495	10517	0,28	0,36	0,32	0,29
Denmark	59	63	67	97	5806	5823	5840	5873	0,10	0,11	0,11	0,17
Estonia	121	128	113	141	1325	1329	1330	1332	0,91	0,96	0,85	1,06
Finland	131	120	91	170	5518	5525	5534	5548	0,24	0,22	0,16	0,31
France	693	638	764	831	67013	67320	67657	67843	0,10	0,09	0,11	0,12
Georgia	131	130	120	150	3723	3717	3728	3689	0,35	0,35	0,32	0,41
Germany	584	569	574	535	83019	83167	83155	83237	0,07	0,07	0,07	0,06
Greece	344	658	912	1947	10724	10719	10679	10604	0,32	0,61	0,85	1,84
Hungary	950	1036	1086	1267	9773	9769	9731	9689	0,97	1,06	1,12	1,31
Iceland	40	28	21	30	357	364	369	376	1,12	0,77	0,57	0,80
Ireland	37	42	35	28	4904	4964	5006	5060	0,08	0,08	0,07	0,06
Italy	1454	1497	1610	1931	60360	59641	59236	58983	0,24	0,25	0,27	0,33
Latvia	233	414	268	272	1920	1908	1893	1876	1,21	2,17	1,42	1,45
Liechtenstein	6	9	8	1	38	39	39	39	1,58	2,31	2,05	0,26
Lithuania	396	398	429	360	2794	2794	2796	2806	1,42	1,42	1,53	1,28
Luxembourg	23	29	30	35	614	626	635	645	0,37	0,46	0,47	0,54
Malta	35	40	62	19	494	514	516	521	0,71	0,78	1,20	0,36
Republic of Moldova	635	523	630	642	2685	2644	2627	2604	2,36	1,98	2,40	2,47
Monaco	8	3	8	8	38	38	39	39	2,11	0,79	2,05	2,05
Montenegro	427	218	381	295	622	622	621	618	6,86	3,50	6,14	4,77
Netherlands	400	386	248	198	17282	17407	17475	17591	0,23	0,22	0,14	0,11
North Macedonia	262	275	394	367	2077	2076	2069	1837	1,26	1,32	1,90	2,00
Norway	102	99	116	131	5328	5367	5391	5425	0,19	0,18	0,22	0,24
Poland	1834	1628	2889	2146	37973	37958	37840	37654	0,48	0,43	0,76	0,57
Portugal	188	261	260	335	10277	10296	10298	10352	0,18	0,25	0,25	0,32
Romania	2656	2994	2971	3302	19414	19329	19202	19038	1,37	1,55	1,55	1,73
Russia	12782	8923	9432	6077	143667	143667	143667	143667	0,89	0,62	0,66	0,42
San Marino	10	6	18	56	35	35	35	34	2,86	1,71	5,14	16,47
Serbia	2160	1836	1993	3289	6964	6927	6872	6797	3,10	2,65	2,90	4,84
Slovakia	300	289	460	479	5450	5458	5460	5435	0,55	0,53	0,84	0,88
Slovenia	210	180	234	287	2081	2096	2109	2107	1,01	0,86	1,11	1,36
Spain	606	440	614	718	46937	47333	47399	47433	0,13	0,09	0,13	0,15
Sweden	209	174	157	162	10230	10327	10379	10452	0,20	0,17	0,15	0,15
Switzerland	279	278	273	257	8544	8606	8670	8737	0,33	0,32	0,31	0,29
Türkiye	7274	9104	9548	12551	82004	83155	83614	84680	0,89	1,09	1,14	1,48
Ukraine	3991	4271	3721	1914	45246	45246	45246	45246	0,88	0,94	0,82	0,42
United Kingdom	344	301	210	240	66647	67025	68134	67509	0,05	0,04	0,03	0,04
Total	44482	41681	44257	45528	834175	836287	837399	837348	0,53	0,50	0,53	0,54

The Council of Europe member States had a combined population of approximately 837 million inhabitants on 1 January 2022⁵. The average number of applications allocated per 10,000 inhabitants was 0,54 in 2022.

5. SOURCES on 01.01.2022: Internet sites of Eurostat (“Population and social conditions” database) and of the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.